**Maths activity for Academic Parents Day - Kinder**

Sept 25, 2010

Teachers in charge: Maggie and Vicky

**Description of the activity:**

The teachers invite some volunteers (6-8) to inquiry about M

easurement. Parents will be provided with different materials to measure their length (short-long) and small objects as non standard units of measurement, e.g. multilinks cubes, cuissinaire rods, clips. The objects´ length will be significantly different.

Instructions:

* Look at these materials, how different are they?.
* When they notice their length, say: ah, what you are saying is that this pencil is shorter than this ruler! O.K.
* Who has a longer object than this ruler?, who has a shorter object than this pencil?. Ask same questions to the rest of volunteers.
* Now, how long is this pencil, do you know?, what about this ruler?
* How can we now the length of the objects that you have?
* When the word “measurement” comes up from the parents, say: O.K. so what do you think measurement means?
* What can we use to measure objects?

Note: As adults they must say*: a ruler, our hands.* Tell them that our Kinder children do not know standard units of measurement yet and measuring with non-standard units means measuring things with blocks, pencils, hands, feet, etc. As long as the items used to measure with are all the same size, e.g. identical blocks or clips.

* Continue the instructions: Let´s try, what do you want to use to measure your pencil?, what about you, what do you want to use to measure your ruler? . Repeat same question to all volunteers.
* Finally, have them make a conclusion about the different things they can use to measure objects with and that we introduce the Maths vocabulary to the children: NON STANDARD UNITS OF MEASUREMENT.

Closing: The teachers will explain to parents that, according to our Scope and Sequence, in Kinder, the children will have different opportunities to inquire about those NON STANDARD UNITS OF MEASUREMENT, coming to the conclusion that it is necessary to use same kind of material to measure objects in order to have same unit of measurement and that this is a step before going to Standard Units of Measurement that they will learn about in First grade.